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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,512	12/10/2004	Michel Gielis	P/4309-84	1297

7590
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07/11/2007

EXAMINER

HOLLOWAY III, EDWIN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/517,512

Applicant(s)

GIELIS, MICHEL

Examiner

Edwin C. Holloway, III

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4-20-07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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EXAMINER'S RESPONSE

1. In response to applicant's amendment filed 4-20-07, all the amendments to the specification and claims have been entered. The examiner has considered the new presentation of claims and applicant's arguments in view of the disclosure and the present state of the prior art. And it is the examiner's opinion that the claims are unpatentable for the reasons set forth in this Office action:

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 4-20-07. These drawings are approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 & 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 14-15 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulverenti (US 4532509).

Pulverenti discloses a monitor and control system with central unit (10) monitoring peripherals (FS) over wired network (27,28,29) to provide security or anomaly configuration (error/abnormality condition indication) responsive to context codes (address/status) corresponding to reference conditions in tables. See cols. 14 and 26. An open circuit indication is not

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expressly disclosed, but would have been an obvious logic signal output corresponding to opposite of short circuit in view of well known negative true logic and common security alarm systems being tripped by a break or open circuit.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulverenti (US 4532509) as applied above and further in view of Waterhouse (US005532465A).

Waterhouse discloses an analogous art communication system with power over the communication lines (14-1) and masters 12 reading slave labels 15 to determine position. See figs. 1, 6 and cols. 4-6.

Regarding claim 18 it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included in Pulverenti power over the communication system would of Waterhouse so that separate powering is not required.

6. Claims 16-17 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulverenti (US 4532509) as applied above and further in view of Skalski (US005274203A).

Skalski discloses an analogous art communication system with primary and secondary processors communicating with multiple read heads and counters to provide redundant position sensing to increase safety. See figs. 1, 6 and cols. 4-6.

Regarding claims 16-17, it would have been obvious to one

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of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included in Pulverenti plural controllers of Skaski for redundancy to increase safety. Regarding claims 21-24, label reader would have been obvious in view of Skalski to determine position suggested by the position sensing in Pulverenti.

7. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulverenti (US 4532509) and Skalski (US005274203A) as applied above and further in view of Persson (US 4086519).

Regarding claims 25-26 Hall effect sensors and magnetized tracks would have been obvious in view of Persson as a precise manner to encode position.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The objections to the specification and drawings have been withdrawn in view of applicant's response.

The 112 rejection has been withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.

The IDS has been lined thru because the fee has not been paid.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact an Electronic Business Center (EBC) representatives at 571-272-4100 or toll free at 1-866-217-9197 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at ebc@uspto.gov. The Patent EBC is a complete customer service center that supports all Patent e-business products and service applications. Additional information is available on the Patent EBC Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html>.

Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 receptionist at (571) 272-2600. Facsimile submissions may be sent via central fax number 571-273-8300 to customer service for entry by technical support staff. Questions related to the operation of the facsimile system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin C. Holloway, III whose telephone number is (571) 272-3058. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308.

EH
7/9/07


EDWIN C. HOLLOWAY, III
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2612